Federal Parent Locator Service

Federal Case Registry

Interface Guidance Document

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3. DATA TRANSMISSION METHOD

This section provides the information needed for IV-D agencies to transmit to and receive data from the FCR.

3.1 CONNECT:Direct

States agencies transmit Person, Case and Locate data using SSA's network and the CONNECT:Direct protocol. CONNECT:Direct is a data transfer software product which allows data centers within and across networks to send and receive large amounts of data using a mainframe-to-mainframe data exchange. The Person, Case and Locate Records that are transmitted to the FCR via CONNECT:Direct must be in the appropriate record format. Refer to Appendix G, "FCR Input Transaction Layouts", Appendix H, "FCR Output Transaction Layouts", and Appendix E, "Data Dictionary", for the record layouts and field descriptions.

The CONNECT:Direct software connects each State to SSA's National Computer Center (NCC), which houses the FCR. Each State has a copy of the CONNECT:Direct product to submit data using the SSA network. Each State has one data center within the network.

ACF has a formal agreement with the SSA, which allows States to send and receive data through SSA's existing network.

The basic element of CONNECT:Direct is a file transfer process. To initiate the transfer of data via CONNECT:Direct, a State must initiate predefined processes that consist of single 'COPY' Statements or combinations of multiple Statements separated by conditional logic. Processes can trigger transfers at a requested time under predetermined criteria. Six different activities may be specified in a process:

1. Move files among systems,
2. Submit jobs,
3. Execute programs,
4. Submit other processes,
5. Build and resolve symbolic values, and
6. Alter the sequence of process execution through conditional logic.

CONNECT:Direct has a checkpoint/restart feature. It eliminates the need to retransmit an entire file in the event of a transmission failure. If a transfer error occurs, the CONNECT:Direct software automatically restarts transmission at the most recent checkpoint. CONNECT:Direct also automatically generates on-line statistics for security, auditing and accounting purposes. This allows States to determine the usage of network resources and to determine how to improve network efficiency.

States must take the following steps to begin using the CONNECT:Direct network to transmit FCR data:

1. Identify the data center that is connected to the SSA CONNECT:Direct network.
2. Identify the person responsible for creating the CONNECT:Direct process to transmit data.
3. Distribute the sample Job Control Language (JCL) to the CONNECT:Direct contact. The sample JCL provides instructions to the programmer and supplies examples of how to create the necessary CONNECT:Direct process to submit FCR data.
4. Provide the OCSE CONNECT:Direct technicians with the Stateside filenames (DSNs) for the State to OCSE transmission and the return OCSE to State transmission.
5. Insure the State CONNECT:Direct security will allow the reading and writing of these files by SSA CONNECT:Direct on the State system.
6. Create the CONNECT:Direct processes necessary to submit data to the FCR.
7. Contact the technical liaison to schedule a test to determine the success of submitting and receiving data from the FCR. A list of the technical liaisons is available through the FPLS Information Line or the OCSE's World Wide Website. Refer to Chart 3-1, "CONNECT:Direct Technical Support," for the telephone number of the Information Line and the Web address.

3.1.1 SAMPLE JCL FOR CONNECT:Direct

Figure 3-1 displays sample JCL that States may use for building the job that will transmit FCR data files to the SSA data center. Substitute the actual values for the CONNECT:Direct data set names. Other information may require modification to conform to each data center environment.

Figure 3-1: Sample JCL for CONNECT:Direct

SAMPLE JCL

```
//JOBSEND JOB                                                          *
(OCSE,XYX),'FCRXMIT',CLASS=E,MSGCLASS=T,NOTIFY=XYX
//*
//DMBATCH EXEC PGM=DMBATCH,REGION=1M,PARM=(YYSLYNN)
//STEPLIB   DD  DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.LOADLIB
//DMNETMPA  DD  DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.NETMAP
//DMPUBLIB  DD  DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.PROCESS.LIB
//DMMSGFIL  DD  DISP=SHR,DSN=SYS3.NDM.STAND.MSG
//DMPRINT   DD  SYSOUT=*
//SYSPRINT  DD  SYSOUT=*
//NDMCMDS   DD  SYSOUT=*
//SYSUDUMP  DD  SYSOUT=*
//SYSIN     DD *
 SIGNON
 SUBMIT   PROC=SENDFCR   NOTIFY=XYX
 SIGNOFF
/*
//
```

Place the following process, SENDFCR, into the Partitioned Data Set (PDS) library referenced by the above DMPUBLIB DD Statement. Substitute the agency or State name where the Snn appears. Substitute the CONNECT:Direct node Name for PNODE= .

```
SENDFCR   PROCESS  PNODE=NDM.SGA.Snn   SNODE=NDM.SSA.NCC
*
STEP1     SUBMIT   DSN=NDMNCC.Snn.PROCESS.LIB(FCRIN) -
          SUBNODE=SNODE
```

3.1.2 CONNECT:DIRECT TECHNICAL SUPPORT

States can receive technical support regarding the CONNECT:Direct process and protocols. These resources include a telephone number that an agency can call to receive assistance for technical questions or problems, and the Website address. Chart 3-1 shows the resources and how to contact the resources.

CHART 3-1: CONNECT:DIRECT TECHNICAL SUPPORT	
Resource	How to Contact Resource
FPLS Information Line	202.401.9267
World Wide Web	http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/
Abe Klugman, CONNECT:Direct Technician Dominic Perry, CONNECT:Direct Technician	410.965.5635 Abe.Klugman@acf.hhs.gov 410.966.4737 Dominic.Perry@acf.hhs.gov

3.1.3 TRANSMISSION SITE

Each State must have only one CONNECT:Direct transmission site. All transactions for a State must come from the same site. States that have chosen to house their SCR for Non IV-D orders outside their Statewide child support system must ensure that their IV-D and Non IV-D transmissions come from one CONNECT:Direct site, although States may choose to send IV-D cases and Non IV-D orders in separate transmissions or separate batches within a transmission.

3.2 SCR-to-FCR Transmission

Beginning October 1, 1998, each State must submit IV-D cases and Non-IV-D orders, including associated person information, to the FCR via CONNECT:Direct using the required formats. Appendix I, "Transaction Timeframes", defines the critical dates for capturing the required information. Part 4, "FCR Transactions", and Appendix G, "FCR Input Transaction Layouts", present explanations of the formats for the submission of data to the FCR.

A State has the option of selecting its own schedule for transmission of data to the FCR. States may transmit data daily using CONNECT:Direct. The FCR is a batch system that executes on a daily basis, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. For a list of official Federal holidays, refer to Internet website: http://www.opm.gov/fedhol/index.asp. At the beginning of each cycle, the FCR collects the files that have been received via CONNECT:Direct since the last cycle.

In developing a schedule for transmission of data to the FCR, a State must consider many factors, such as the SCR batch window, the frequency of changes, etc. One less obvious, but very important, consideration is the need to ensure that the FCR reflects current information. The FCR Proactive Matching processes, described in Section 4.2.4, "FCR Proactive Match Processing", use the information that is submitted on a daily basis. It returns information to the submitting, and other, States about persons in interstate cases and newly received NDNH

data for persons in IV-D cases on the FCR. To obtain the maximum benefit from this process, and to avoid unnecessary handling of out-of-date information, States should submit new and changed case or person information to the FCR in as timely a manner as possible. OCSE recommends that the State submit this information at least weekly. Daily submissions are encouraged to maintain an even transaction flow to the FCR. However, OCSE realizes that this may not be feasible for all SCRs.

3.3   FCR-to-SCR Transmission

The FCR sends four different types of transactions to the SCR. FCR input Proactive Match Responses are sent as a result of input transactions that have been received from the SCR. Locate Request Responses and FCR Query Responses are sent in response to a request from the State. Proactive Matching Transactions are automatically sent to the State. Chart 3-2 summarizes the records that are associated with the four transaction types and the associated time frames for FCR transmission of the transactions. Part 4, "FCR Transactions," and Appendix H, "FCR Output Transaction Layouts", present explanations of the formats of the data that is sent to the SCR.

CHART 3-2: FCR-TO-SCR TRANSMISSION DATA		
Transaction Type	FCR Output Transaction	Timeframe
Input Acknowledge-ment Responses	FCR Case Acknowledgement/ Error Record FCR Person/Locate Request Acknowledgement/ Error Record FCR Query Acknowledgement/ Error Record	The initial Acknowledgement Records are returned to the State in an FCR Routine Batch Response within one business day of the receipt by the FCR of the input transactions from the State. Final acknowledgement, acceptance or rejection of records that are being held pending SSN verification, are sent when the SSN verification process is complete in the FCR Pending Resolution Batch Response. If during the SSN verification process, manual review or IRS-U is required to identify the SSN, the final acknowledgement may be delayed up to 30 days.
FCR Query Responses	FCR Query/Proactive Match Response Record	The Response Record is sent to the State within one business day of the receipt by the FCR of the input transactions from the State.
Locate Request Responses	FCR IRS-1099 Locate Response Record FCR Locate Response Record FCR NDNH Locate/ Proactive Match Record FCR SVES Locate	The State can expect to receive the results of IRS-1099 Locate Requests within 30 days from submission. The State can expect to receive the results of FPLS external Locate sources within three weeks. The results of the NDNH Locate Request are sent to the State within two business days of

CHART 3-2: FCR-TO-SCR TRANSMISSION DATA		
Transaction Type	FCR Output Transaction	Timeframe
	Response Record	accepting the FCR Input Person/Locate Request Record for the Locate. The results of the SVES Locate Request and SVES Proactive Matches are sent to the State within three business days of accepting the FCR Input Person/Locate Request Record for the Locate.
Proactive Match Processing Results	FCR Query/Proactive Match Response Record FCR NDNH Locate/ Proactive Match Record FCR DMDC/Proactive Match Response Record FCR SVES Locate Response FCR Title II Pending Claim Response	The results of the FCR-to-FCR and FCR-to-NDNH Proactive Matching processes are sent to the State within two business days of the acceptance of the FCR Input Person/Locate Request Record for a person being added or, in certain situations, updated on the FCR. The results of the NDNH-to-FCR Proactive Matching are sent to the State within two business days of the acceptance of the new information on the NDNH. DMDC matches are returned to States on a proactive basis, usually once per quarter. SVES matches are returned to States on a proactive basis within three business days of accepting the FCR Input Person/Locate Request Record for the Locate. Title II Pending Claim matches are returned whenever SSA identifies a match against their file.
Match Results	Insurance Match Response Record	The results of the matching that are performed by the Insurance Match System are sent to the State within five business days of the Insurance System's receipt of insurance match data.
MSFI Match Results	FCR MSFIDM Response Record	The results of matches from the MSFIDM Match process are sent to States as they are received in the FCR.